Air Service

5223. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Maharashtra linked with air services; and

(b) the remaining districts which are proposed to be linked with air services during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) At present, Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Kolhapur are linked with air services.

(b) Indian Airlines has no plans to link any new station due to constraints of aircraft capacity. Private airlines are however free to operate to any station depending on commercial viability.

Screening of Netaji Bose Documentaries

5224. SHRIMATI KIRSHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have plans to telecast on Doordarshan two documentaries on Nataji, "Enemy of Empire" produced by BBC and telecast in Britain at prime time, and "Netaji and India's Freedom" produced by Netaji Research Bureau, Nataji Bhawan, Calcutta; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) In respect of the documentary titled "Netaji and India's Freedom" Doordarshan has received an offer and the same in under process. The producer of the other documentary has not yet made the offer to Doordarshan. Further action in this regard will be taken by Doordarshan as and when the offer is made.

Production of Mica

5225. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the production of mica;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of mica?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Production of mica has shown a declining trend.

(b) and (c) Decline in the production of mica is due to decline in its demand in the international market. With a view to assess the future production capacity of the country and to reopen the closed mines, Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines have taken up the detailed study in mica belts of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Government of India have also set up the Working Group/Committees to investigate the problems of the mica industry. To promote the mica mining, Government have also offered a number of incentives to the exporters of mica such as withdrawal of duty on export of mica scrap and waste, and decanalisation of export of processed mica.

Closure of Mines Under HCL

5226. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have finally taken a decision to close down some of the mines under the Hindustan Copper Limited.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fate of the employees have been considered;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the loss suffered by the units of above company during the last two years; and

(f) the efforts made to revive those units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) During the year 1995-96 Hindustan Copper Limited earned a record profit of Rs. 75.84 crores. However, mainly due to crash in LME price of copper during the year 1996-97 coupled with reduction in customs duty on copper, the loss suffered by the Company during the year is estimated to be more than Rs. 100 crores. During the year 1995-96, the Ghatshila unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mine suffered a loss of Rs. 44.32 crores. The loss incurred by Ghatshila Unit including Mosaboni and Rakha mines during the year 1996-97 is estimated to be in the region of around Rs. 50 crores.

(f) To improve the financial condition the Company has taken a number of measures which include reduction of inventory level, improvement in norms of consumption, recovery and productivity and reduction of administrative expenses. As a long term strategy to improve its competitiveness, the Company has drawn up a plan for expansion of its Khetri Smelter from its present capacity of 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa.

Hindustan Copper Unit/Ghatshilla Unit

5227. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial position, manpower and Production Plan of Hindustan Copper Unit as a whole and Ghatshila